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Oct 63

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29 October 1963

Although there is still insufficient evidence for firm conclusions on the duties of the newly created Fifth and Sixth Ministries of Machine Building, the leadership of the two ministries suggests a defense orientation. The Fifth Ministry is headed by Lt. Gen. Ch'iu Ch'uang-ch'eng, a Russian-trained artillery expert who has been Deputy Commander and Political Commissar of the PLA Artillery Forces. The Sixth Ministry is headed by Admiral Fang Ch'iang who served in the PLA Navy from 1954 to 1960, when he was appointed Vice Minister of the First Ministry of Machine Building.

Regarding the functions of the machine building ministries, it is assumed that the First is still concerned with conventional machine building and that the Second retains responsibility for atomic energy. It seems most likely that functions of the Third--formerly responsible for all defense industries--have been split up and elevated into new ministries. The very strong background in electronics shared by the top management of the Fourth Ministry makes this ministry the most likely candidate for electronic responsibilities and leaves the possibility of some missile responsibility as well. On the other hand, missile development might also be under the Fifth Ministry, which is headed by an artillery expert. The Sixth Ministry appears to be connected with shipbuilding,

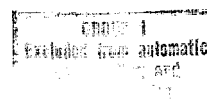
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While presently available evidence offers no indication of responsibilities for missile production, the most likely candidates appear to be the Third, Fourth or Fifth Ministries of Machine Building.

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